Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 YAOUND 02382 120736Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
BIB-01 SCS-06 /072 W
----------078980 121407Z /43
R 111600Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5476
INFO AMCONSUL DOUALA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE YAOUNDE 2382

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS CD
SUBJECT: GOC REFUSED ENTRY OF US JOURNALISTS TO NDJAMENA

REF: NDJAMENA 1820

1. NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT JOHN DARNTON AND NEWSWEEK STAFFER JAMES PRINGLE WERE CONTACTED MAY 6 BY THE EMBASSY DUTY OFFICER WHILE STILL IN DOUALA AND ADVISED IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED FROM NDJAMENA NOT TO TRAVEL TO CHAD ON THE SUNDAY MAY 7 FLIGHT AND SUGGESTED INSTEAD THEY PROCEED TO YAOUNDE AND AWAIT FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO WHETHER THEY WOULD BE GRANTED ENTRY INTO CHAD. ON MAY 7 EXTENSIVE EFFORTS WERE MADE TO DISUADE THE TWO CORRESPONDENTS FROM PROCEEDING TO CHAD BUT IN VIEW OF PUBLICATION DEADLINES, THEY FELT THAT THEY SHOULD MAKE AN EFFORT TO OBTAIN ENTRY, EVEN THOUGH THEY HAD BEEN STRONGLY URGED NOT TO DO SO BY NDJAMENA. NDJAMENA WAS SO ADVISED. THE JOURNALISTS TOOK THE MAY 8 FLIGHT TO NDJAMENA AND RETURNED THAT EVENING (SEE REFTEL). IN
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 YAOUND 02382 120736Z

A MAY 10 MEETING THEY INDICATED THAT THEY WERE MOST APPRECIATIVE OF ALL THE EFFORTS THAT OUR EMBASSY IN NDJAMENA HAD UNDERTAKEN ON THEIR BEHALF BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER THEIR BRIEF VISIT.

2. WHILE IN YAOUNDE THEY ATTEMPTED TO SPEAK TO GENERAL MALLOUM. THEY DID ATTEND MALLOUM PRESS CONFERENCE, BUT WERE TOLD THEY COULD

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

NOT ASK QUESTIONS. IN EFFECT THEY ONLY HAD ACCESS TO PRESS ADVISOR. THE PRESS ADVISOR TOLD THEM THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED INTO CHAD BECAUSE THEY HAD, IN EFFECT, COME TO CHAND UNDER FALSE PRETENSES AND HAD BAD INTENTIONS. MESSRS. PRINGLE AND DARNTON TOLD THE PRESS ATTACHE THAT THEY DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE BASIS FOR THI S
STATEMENT AS THEY ARRIVED WITH VALID VISAS, VOLUNTARILY STATED THAT THEY WERE CORRESPONDENTS, AND SHOWED THEIR PRESS CARDS. CONJECTURED WAS THAT AN OVER ZEALOUS IMMIGRATION OFFICER MIGHT HAVE CLAIMED THAT HE HAD PROTECTED THE SECURITY OF THE STATE BY UNCOVERING TWO JOURNALISTS SEEKING TO GAIN UNAUTHORIZED ENTRY INTO CHAD -- NONE OF WHICH, ACCORDING TO THEM WAS THE ACTUAL CASE.

3. WHILE IN YAOUNDE THE CORRESPONDENTS RECEIVED A GENERAL BRIEFING ON THE CHAD SITUATION AND IN DEPTH BRIEFINGS ON CAMEROON AND EQUATORIAL GUINEA. THEY ARE ALSO KNOWN TO HAVE SEEN JOAQUIN JUSTE THE SPANISH CHARGE AND SOME UNIDENTIFIED FRENCH SOURCES. THEY INTEND TO RETURN TO NAIROBI ON THE 11TH (PROBABLY WT 753).

4. COMMENT: WHILE WE HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THESE CORRESPONDENTS WILL PUBLISH ON THE MATTERS THEY INVESTIGATED DURING THEIR STAY, WE HAVE NO DOUBT FROM THEIR OFT REPEATED STATEMENTS THAT THEY ARE MOST GRATEFUL FOR ALL EFFORTS MADE ON THEIR BEHALF BY AMEMBASSY NDJAMANA.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

MITHOEFER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: JOURNALISTS, TRAVEL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978YAOUND02382
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780202-0377
Format: TEL
From: YAOUNDE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780567/aaaaceuu.tel
Line Count: 95
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 51ed16a0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 NDJAMENA 1820
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2713884
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOC REFUSED ENTRY OF US JOURNALISTS TO NDJAMENA
TAGS: PINS, CD, NEWSWEEK, NEW YORK TIMES, (PRINGLE, JAMES), (DARNTON, JOHN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/51ed16a0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014